

FARM CONSERVATION

programs in Massachusetts



Federal program

State program

Land Preservation Easement Programs

FRPP

Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program

Through FRPP, NRCS provides funds to purchase the development rights to farmland, preserving productive farmland for agricultural use. In Massachusetts, the FRPP program works through the state APR program.
www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp.

WRP

Wetlands Reserve Program

WRP offers an opportunity for landowners to voluntarily protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property. NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their restoration efforts.
www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp.html

APR

Agricultural Preservation Restriction

The APR program is a voluntary program which offers a non-development alternative to owners of "prime" and "state important" agricultural land who are faced with a decision regarding the future of their farms. The program, administered by MDAR, pays farmers the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction which precludes any use that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.
www.mass.gov/agr/landuse/APR

COMMON ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

DCR - Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
DEP - Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection
EOEA - Mass. Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
FSA - Farm Service Agency (USDA)
MassWildlife - Mass. Dept. of Fish and Game
MDAR - Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources
NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)
RD - Rural Development (USDA)
USFWS - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PARTNERS/ORGANIZATIONS

CCCCGA - Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Assoc.
CISA - Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture
MACD - Mass. Assoc. of Conservation Districts
NACD - National Association of Conservation Districts
NESFI - New England Small Farm Institute
SEMAP - Southeastern Mass. Agricultural Partnership

PROGRAMS

ACPP - Accelerated Conservation Planning Project (MACD)
AMA - Agricultural Management Assistance
CCPI - Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative
CRP - Conservation Reserve Program (FSA)
CSP - Conservation Security Program (NRCS)
EWP - Emergency Watershed Program (NRCS)
GLCI - Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (NRCS)
GRP - Grassland Reserve Program
RC&D - Resource Conservation & Development (NRCS)

Federal | State | Other

Federal program

State program

Environmental Improvement Cost-share Programs

EQIP

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help from NRCS for structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land.
www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip.html

AEEP

Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program

AEEP provides support to agricultural operations for the mitigation and/or prevention of impacts on natural resources, including water and air, that may result from agricultural practices. MDAR reimburses participants for the approved costs of materials used to install best management practices which improve water quality, conserve water or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aEEP

WHIP

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

NRCS will pay up to 75 percent of the cost of establishing and maintaining conservation practices that are necessary for enhancing/improving wildlife habitat and restoring natural ecosystems.
www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip.html

Technical Assistance Programs

CTA

Conservation Technical Assistance

Through the CTA program, NRCS provides technical assistance in planning and implementing conservation systems to land users who voluntarily address natural resource concerns. CTA is a free service offered to people working to conserve, improve and sustain natural resources on private and public lands for the benefit of the larger community.
www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cta.html

FVEP

Farm Viability Enhancement Program

FVEP is MDAR's business planning program designed to look at ways of diversifying and modernizing an existing farm's operation. Participants go through a business planning phase. If the farmer is willing to implement the changes recommended in the business plan and sign a non-development covenant for a period of five or ten years, money may be available to implement the plan.
www.mass.gov/agr/programs/farmviability



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Massachusetts Association of
Conservation Districts



Massachusetts Department of
Agricultural Resources